

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
CU-04 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-04 OES-07 IO-13
/095 W

-----002734 270911Z /23

R 270650Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0228
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 0813

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ECON CH SPOP SOCI SWEL
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S TRAVEL TO KUNMING

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK AND USLO OFFICER VISITED KUNMING FROM MARCH 20-23. ALTHOUGH KUNMING REMAINS AN "EXCLUSIVE" CITY ORDINARILY CLOSED TO FOREIGN VISITORS, LOCAL OFFICIALS PREDICTED ITS OPENING "SOON" TO GENERAL TOURIST VISITS. ACTIVE REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF TEMPLES AND HISTORICAL RELICS THROUGHOUT KUNMING WOULD SEEM TO BEAR THIS OUT. LONG PLAGUED BY FACTIONAL DISTURBANCES, KUNMING NOW SEEMS PLACID. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT POSTERS IN EVIDENCE AND THE MILITARY WAS NEARLY INVISIBLE. LOCAL AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN A TOUGH STANCE ON CRIME BUT HAVE PASSED OTHER MEASURES INTENDED TO WIN POPULAR SUPPORT. HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP INCLUDED VISIT TO KUNMING MACHINE TOOL FACTORY AND DINNER HOSTED BY YUNNAN PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE RANKING VICE CHAIRMAN LIU MING-HUI. END SUMMARY.
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2. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK AND USLO OFFICER VISITED KUNMING, YUNNAN FROM MARCH 20-23. ALTHOUGH KUNMING -- THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AND HEADQUARTERS OF THE KUNMING MILITARY REGION -- REMAINS AN "EXCLUSIVE" CITY VISITED ONLY BY FAVORED DELEGATIONS AND BY FOREIGN AMBASSADORS (ANOTHER USLO OFFICER WAS DENIED PERMISSION TO VISIT KUNMING DURING MID-MARCH),

LOCAL OFFICIALS PREDICTED ITS OPENING "SOON" TO GENERAL TOURIST VISITS. THE SURPRISINGLY FRENETIC PACE OF REPAIR AND RENOVATION WORK ON TEMPLES AND HISTORICAL RELICS THROUGHOUT THE CITY WOULD SEEM TO BEAR THIS OUT. OFFICIALS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT "THERE IS A PLAN" TO CONSTRUCT A NEW HOTEL TO ACCOMMODATE THE EXPECTED INFLUX OF FOREIGNERS.

3. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MILIEU. LONG PLAGUED BY SEVERE FACTIONAL DISTURBANCES, KUNMING NOW SEEMS UTTERLY PLACID. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT WALL POSTERS IN EVIDENCE ON THE STREETS, ALTHOUGH POSTERS WITHIN COURTYARDS AND FACTORY UNITS INDICATED THAT THE LOCAL "THIRD" CAMPAIGN AGAINST GANG OF FOUR SUPPORTERS CONTINUES IN HIGH GEAR. THE MILITARY WAS VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE ADOPTED A TOUGH STANCE ON CRIME IN KEEPING WITH THE NATIONAL PROGRAM OF "GRASPING THE KEY LINK AND BRINGING ORDER TO THE COUNTRY." COURT NOTICES POSTED THROUGHOUT CENTRAL KUNMING (SEPTTEL) CONTAINED INFORMATION ON A DEATH SENTENCE AND SUSPENDED DEATH SENTENCES METED OUT TO SERIOUS OR HABITUAL OFFENDERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO ADOPTED MEASURES CALCULATED TO WIN POPULAR SUPPORT. VARIOUS NOTICES POSTED BY THE KUNMING MUNICIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICE INDICATED THAT RESIDENTS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO USE THEIR PORK RATION COUPONS FOR A GIVEN MONTH BEGINNING ON THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH "SO AS
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TO BETTER THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERIOD OF THE SPRING FESTIVAL."

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R 270650Z MAR 78 ZDK ZUI RUHQSGG 7901

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5. HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOTICES POSTED PROMINENTLY THROUGHOUT THE CITY WARNED AGAINST AN OUTBREAK OF ENCEPHALOMENINGITIS AND ENCEPHALOMYELITIS AND CONTAINED POINTERS FOR PREVENTING THE DISEASES. OTHER NOTICES CONTAINED INFORMATION ON BIRTH CONTROL. BUT PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT A BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM WAS NOT BEING PUSHED VIGOROUSLY IN YUNNAN SINCE THE PROVINCE CONTAINED A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AND WAS, GENERALLY SPEAKING, UNDERPOPULATED. OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE CURRENT POPULATION OF YUNNAN IS 28 MILLION AND POINTED OUT THAT EACH PEASANT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR UPWARDS OF 5 MOU OF LAND.

6. A MELODRAMATIC STAGE RENDERING OF THE DOWNFALL OF SHANGHAI ASSOCIATES OF THE GANG OF FOUR WAS PLAYING TO LARGE CROWDS IN KUNMING. DISPLAY CASES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA CONTAINED PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LOCAL ACTORS AND ACTRESSES PLAYING THE ROLES OF THE SHANGHAI VILLAINS -- CITED BY NAME FROM MA TIEN-SHUI, HSU CHING-HSIEN, WANG HSIU-CHEN, CHEN A-TA AND WANG CHEN-LUNG
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THROUGH SOME TEN LESSER MEMBERS OF THE GANG'S APPARAT.

7. HIGHLIGHTS OF AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S VISIT INCLUDED A HALF DAY AT THE KUNMING MACHINE TOOL FACTORY (DETAILS BY AIRGRAM) AND A DINNER HOSTED BY LIU MING-HUI, THE RANKING VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUNNAN PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE.

8. KUNMING MACHINE TOOL FACTORY. SINCE THE LAST VISIT BY A USLO OFFICER IN OCTOBER 1977, THE FACTORY HAD IMPLEMENTED A WAGE INCREASE FOR ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, INCREASED ITS WORKERS BY 100, REESTABLISHED A TRADE UNION, AND BEGUN TO WORK ON A PLAN TO AWARD BONUSES. THE FACTORY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE STILL EXISTED, BUT THE CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO THE ORGANIZATION WITH SOME DISTASTE AND EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR THE TITLE "DIRECTOR."

9. MEETING WITH VICE CHAIRMAN LIU MING-HUI. LIU, A VETERAN OF SOME 20 YEARS IN YUNNAN, IS CURRENTLY THE RANKING VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE.

ALTHOUGH LIU WAS PERSONALLY CORDIAL AND PROPOSED THE STANDARD
TOAST TO NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS, HE WAS
UNUSUALLY PARSIMONIOUS IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT HIS
PROVINCE. TWICE ASKED FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROVINCE AND
HIS IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT PROGRESS, LIU OR HIS SUBORDINATES
RIPOSTED WITH "AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK SURELY KNOWS A GREAT DEAL
ABOUT YUNNAN ALREADY, PROBABLY AS MUCH AS WE DO." OTHER
CONVERSATIONAL GAMBITS OVER DINNER ELICITED EQUALLY BIZARRE
RESPONSES.
WOODCOCK

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